

roses, development of community rose gardens of educational value, exhibitions by amateur gardeners, or unusual rose collections of special merit.

This medal could not have been awarded to a more deserving person in the rose industry. Larry is a Board Member and the only two-term president of All America Rose Selections, Inc., and a Board Member of the Fund for the United States Botanic Garden. His efforts in the 1980s resulted in the rose's designation as the National Floral Emblem of the United States, and he was instrumental in the establishment of a National Rose Garden. Groundbreaking for this two-acre garden adjacent to the United States Botanic Garden took place in 2001. His leadership also was evident in raising the funds to remodel and reopen the National Botanical Garden on the National Mall.

Larry serves as vice president of Certified Roses, Inc., of Tyler. This employee-owned corporation is the second largest processor of roses in North America, annually providing up to five and one-half million rose bushes of all varieties. His company is a constant force in producing new rose hybrids and new market development, and he assists both domestic and international hybridizers in plant evaluation and the naming and marketing of new roses. In recognition of his achievements, he has received several All America Rose Selections awards.

Larry has been an active member of the American Rose Society and Texas Nursery and Landscape Association, and he is past president of the Texas Rose Research Foundation. He is also active in the Texas Rose Festival Association in Tyler, the Tyler Rose Museum, Order of the Rose and Texas Rose Society.

With 2002 declared by Congress as the Year of the Rose, Larry will help carry forward this theme, and I can think of no one more devoted to this cause nor more deserving of our recognition and appreciation. Larry has helped raise our national awareness of the rose as an important symbol to our country. His work has benefitted our Nation's Capital, the State of Texas, and his hometown of Tyler. Mr. Speaker, I am so proud of the accomplishments of my dear friend, and I know that my colleagues join me today in congratulating him on this award—and expressing our Nation's gratitude for the work Larry Burks has done to promote this beautiful National flower and to encourage civic involvement in this worthy cause.

MAJOR GENERAL RICHARD F.
GILLIS

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sadness, and that of the entire Robins Air Force Base community in Middle Georgia, over the passing of my good friend, retired Major General Richard F. (Dick) Gillis.

General Gillis commanded the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center at a critical time in our country's history and that of Robins, and he carried out that mission as he did all his assignments: with outstanding patriotism, competence, and leadership. Uniquely among

commanders, he served this center in three separate positions: as the director of maintenance, as the ALC vice commander, and as ALC commander.

The current ALC commander, Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam, said it exceptionally well: "General Dick Gillis was a courageous leader during a period of great change in our Air Force. His foresight and wisdom made this a better place to live and work. We'll all miss him."

During his command General Gillis made Robins a less likely candidate for base closure by bringing in the Joint STARS mission; by working hard to assure future workloads; by preventing a reduction in force when other ALCs were losing work force; by working on aerospace industry expansion and educational enhancement in the Middle Georgia area. Gen. Gillis led the center very ably during the critical times of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and during the Persian Gulf War.

General Gillis was a command pilot with more than 5,000 hours. While assigned to Tan Son Nhut Air Base, South Vietnam, General Gillis flew 100 combat missions in RF-101A/C aircraft. Over his 38 year Air Force career, General Gillis' military awards and decorations included the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with "V" device and oak leaf cluster, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with oak leaf cluster, Combat Readiness Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with five service stars, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with eight oak leaf clusters, Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Mr. Speaker, General Gillis was a great commander of Robins, a great American, and he will be missed so very much. It is most appropriate that his burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery on October 15. Our country has lost a strong leader, and I am proud to have known him and worked with him.

HONORING SAN LUIS OBISPO FIRE
CHIEF ROBERT F. NEUMANN

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring my constituent, Fire Chief Robert "Bob" F. Neumann for his significant contributions to our Central Coast community. This past May, Chief Neumann retired from the San Luis Obispo City Fire Department.

Chief Neumann entered the field of fire fighting in 1968 as a firefighter, and served our community as a Fire Inspector, Fire Engineer, Fire Dispatcher, Fire Captain, Fire Battalion Chief and Fire Marshal and became Fire Chief in 1991. Chief Neumann obtained degrees in Fire Science and Soil Science at Cuesta Community College and California Polytechnic State University, both of which are located in the 22nd congressional district.

In 1985, Chief Neumann served as the City's Operation Section Chief on the 50,000 acre, Las Pilitas Fire that threatened the City of San Luis Obispo. For the 48 hours that it took to contain this fire Chief Neumann supervised 20 Type-I and 2 Strike Teams. A series of storms combined with a loss of water-shed caused by the Highway 41 Fire in 1994, resulted in extensive flooding in the downtown area of San Luis Obispo in February of 1995. Throughout the 48 hours when the floods ran through the City, Bob served as Fire Incident Commander and helped to avert disaster. Significant moments in Bob's career, during which he displayed exemplary service were also seen in the Highway 58 fire in August of 1996. During this natural catastrophe Bob essentially served as Deputy Branch Director of the organized command structure.

The City of San Luis Obispo has been most fortunate to have been served by Chief Neumann for 27 years. I am proud to congratulate Bob on his remarkable record of achievement during his 34-year career.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
DAVE HAMIL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize the Honorable Dave Hamil of Sterling, Colorado, who passed away on July 27, 2002. Dave Hamil was an exceptional man who spent his life serving his community and his nation.

Dave Hamil's story is a great American story. As a child, Dave attended a one-room school on Colorado's Eastern Plains. In 1925, he graduated from Logan County Industrial Arts High School as the Student Body President.

After graduating with honors from Hastings College in 1930, Dave returned to Logan County, where he started a farming and ranching business. In 1933, he married Genevieve Robinson. Dave and Genevieve were married 64 years. The couple had three children, Jo Ann, Don and Jack.

In 1938, the same year he was first elected to the Colorado House of Representatives, Mr. Hamil helped organize the Sterling section of the Highline Electric Cooperative. This brought electricity to the farms and ranches of Logan County for the very first time.

During his tenure in the legislature, Mr. Hamil served as Speaker of the Colorado House for five years, from 1951 to 1956. Among his accomplishments were locating the Air Force Academy near Colorado Springs and extending Interstate 70 west through the Eisenhower Tunnel and into Utah.

In 1956, President Dwight Eisenhower appointed Hamil as administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). He was so talented in that capacity, when Richard Nixon was elected president, he asked Dave to return to the post. Mr. Hamil continued to serve as the REA administrator during the Ford and Carter administrations.

Between the Eisenhower and Nixon administrations, Dave was appointed by Colorado Governor John Love to serve as Director of Institutions for the state. There he used his exceptional management skills to create one of the best mental health systems in the nation.